What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing image data, comprising the steps of:

5   (a) receiving a first image data;

(b) obtaining a second image data by means of developing the first image data;

(c) obtaining a third image data by means of compressing the second image data;

10   (d) comparing a volume of the first image data and a volume of the third image data; and

(e) storing the image data of the smaller of said two volumes while discarding the image data of the larger of said two volumes.

15   2. A method according to claim 1, in which the first image data and the second image data consist of a printer language data and a bitmap data, respectively.

3. A device for processing image data, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a first image data consisting

20   of a printer language data;

a first generator for generating a second image data consisting of a bitmap data by means of developing the first image data;

a second generator for generating a third image data

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by means of compressing the second image data;

a comparator for comparing a volume of the first image
data and a volume of the third image data; and

a storage means for storing the image data of the smaller

5   of said two volumes while discarding the image data of the
larger of said two volumes.

4.   A device according to claim 3, in which, in case of
printing a plurality of copies, the second copy and the rest
of the copies are printed based on the stored image data.

10   5.   A device according to claim 3, in which said
comparator executes said comparison of the volumes of said
image data page by page and either the first image data or
the third image data will be stored according to the result
of said comparison.

15   6.   A device according to claim 3, further comprising
a transmitter for transmitting the stored image data to an
external apparatus through a network.

7.   A device according to claim 3, further comprising
a detector for detecting problems during printing, and a

20   transmitter for transmitting the stored image data when said
detector detects a problem during printing through a network.

8.   A method of processing image data, comprising the
steps of:

(a) receiving a first image data;

(b) obtaining a second image data by means of developing the first image data;

(c) printing on a recording medium using the second image data;

5   (d) comparing a first time required for developing the first image data and a second time required for printing with the second image data; and

(e) storing the first image data if the first time is shorter than the second time based on the result of said
10   comparison.

9.   A method according to claim 8, in which the first image data and the second image data consist of a printer language data and a bitmap data respectively.

10.   An image data processing device comprising:

15   a receiver for receiving a first image data consisting of a printer language data;

a generator for generating a second image data that consists of a bitmap data by means of developing the first image data;

20   a transmitter for transmitting the second image data to a printing unit for printing the image data on a recording medium;

a comparator for comparing a first time required for developing the first image data and a specified second time;

and

a storage means for storing the first image data if the

first time is shorter than the second time based on the result

of said comparison.

5   11.   A device according to claim 10, in which said second

time is a time required for printing the image data on a

printing medium using the second image data.

12.   A device according to claim 10, further comprising

a printing unit for forming the image data based on the second

10   image data transmitted from said transmitter.

13.   An image processing device comprising:

a receiver for receiving a first image data consisting

of a printer language data;

a first generator for generating a second image data

15   consisting of a bitmap data by means of developing the first

image data;

a second generator for generating a third image data

by means of compressing the second image data;

a transmitter for transmitting the second image data

20   to a printing unit for printing the image data on a recording

medium;

a comparing means for comparing a first time required

for developing the first image data and a specified second

time; and

a storage means for storing the first image data if the first time is shorter than the second time and storing the third image data if the first time is longer than the second time based on the result of said comparison.